

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13177

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP EG

SUBJECT: CODEL WILSON'S CALL ON PRESIDENT SADAT

1. CONGRESSMAN WILSON AND CLAY, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, STAFFER CAVANAGH, AND EMBOFF, MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT FOR ONE HOUR TODAY ON FINAL DAY OF CODEL'S VISIT TO EGYPT. MEETING WAS AT SADAT'S VILLAGE OF MITABUL KUM. CODEL WILSON PRESENTED SADAT COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL RECORD REPORTING PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF US-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION AND INDICATED HIS SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. WILSON OPENED DISCUSSION BY REFERRING TO MONDAY'S BOMB BLAST AT LA GUARDIA AIRPORT, WHICH WAS DENOUNCED BY SADAT WHO ALSO STATED THAT HE FELT CERTAIN PLO HAD NO RPT NO CONNECTION WITH INCIDENT. ALSO ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION, SADAT EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT "US HOLDS 99 PERCENT OF CARDS IN MID-EAST" AND THAT MEANS MUST BE FOUND TO CREATE US-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE AS VITAL PRECONDITION TO FINAL SOLUTION OF MID-EAST PROBLEM. SPEAKING IN CONTEXT OF US ELECTIONS IN 1976, SADAT CALLED FOR CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE TO PREPARE GROUNDWORK FOR RESOLUTION OF MID-EAST SITUATION IN 1977.

2. IN ECONOMIC SPHERE, PRESIDENT DISCUSSED PRESENT GOE LIQUIDITY CRISIS AND REVIEWED AID EFFORTS BY US, JAPAN, WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER ARAB STATES. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE ANNOUNCED PM SALEM TO BEGIN TOUR OF GULF CAPITALS NEXT WEEK. SADAT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT JANUARY 1, 1976, PORT
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SAID WOULD BECOME FREE CITY SIMILAR TO SINGAPORE AND HONG

KONG AND ON DECEMBER 30 THE SUEZ CANAL REACHED ITS PRE 1967 TRAFFIC RATE WITH TWO CONVOYS PER DAY IN EACH DIRECTION. HE FURTHER STATED THAT CANAL REVENUES OF US \$350 MILLION PER YEAR COUPLED WITH OIL REVENUES FROM RECENTLY RETURNED FIELDS WOULD GENERATE US \$700 MILLION ANNUAL INCOME. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE ADDITIONAL REVENUES IN FACE OF GOE DEBT OF 2 BILLION POUNDS STERLING.

3. DURING DISCUSSION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SADAT EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ACQUIRE F-5 AIRCRAFT. WILSON, NOTING THAT NORTHROP IS LOCATED IN HIS DISTRICT, VOICED HIS INTEREST IN MATTER AS SUCH SALE WOULD INCREASE EMPLOYMENT IN HIS DISTRICT. SADAT FURTHER STATED THAT SOVIETS HAD SUPPLIED NO SPARE PARTS OR ENGINE OVERHAULS ON MIGS IN TWO YEARS AND HAD REPLACED NONE OF THE EQUIPMENT LOST IN 1973 WAR.

4. COMMENT: MEETING WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL AND MUCH APPRECIATED. CODEL COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PRESIDENT'S HOSPITALITY AD CANDOR.
EILTS

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